

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 24th August 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU, Chairman, in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Depressed Classes.

The Government Order regarding the Kalpathi agraaharam.

* 330 Q.—MR. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government Order issued between the 8th and 14th January 1925 regarding the Kalpathi agraaharam in particular and other public roads and pathways in general is still in force or the same has already been withdrawn;

(b) if not withdrawn already, to place a copy of the Government Order on the Council table; and

(c) whether the Government had already received copies of resolutions submitted by the Adi-Dravida conferences held at Vaniyambadi, Ambur, Tiruppattur, Salem, Ootacamund and Coimbatore between January and April 1925 praying to cancel or withdraw the Government Order passed?

A.—(a) G.O. No. 37, Public, dated the 9th January 1925, has not been withdrawn.

(b) The Government Order has already been placed on the Editors' Table.

(c) Resolutions passed at most of the places mentioned have been received.

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Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ In answer to clause (a) we find that ‘ G.O. No. 37, Public, dated the 9th January 1925, has not been withdrawn.’ Sir, we find that this Government Order states ‘ the Government have no power of interference unless the agraphams are connected with business centres. The members of the depressed classes have no free access to the post offices located in agraphams.’ Well, Sir, though the agraphams are connected with business centres or with a post office and if the members of the depressed classes wish to have free access to the post office with a view to transact postal business, they are actually prevented from entering the agraphams. I want to know the reasons why they are prevented.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I was not aware of this until the hon. Member made himself responsible for the statement that members of the depressed classes are prevented from going to the post office. I was under the impression that a post office was a place of business so that the Government Order quoted by the hon. Member would technically apply to cases which he has been complaining of. If the hon. Member would make himself responsible for a contrary statement and specify the cases where such interference took place, the Government would inquire into the matter.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I point out that very recently in a village called Kethandapatti near Jolarpet, the members of the depressed classes were prevented from going to the post office through the agrapham ? ”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARIU (from the chair) :—“ The instance which you refer to does not apply to the question set down on the agenda paper.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ As the hon. the Law Member asked me to specify the case where such interference was caused, I pointed out that instance.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If the hon. Member writes to me how the members of the depressed classes were interfered with or invite my attention to anything that has happened, I shall cause inquiries to be made.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Thank you, Sir.”

Irrigation.

Alleged cancellation of water-supply for inam dry lands by the Collector of Madura.

* 331 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Madura has issued a notification in the *Madura District Gazette Extraordinary*, dated 13th February 1924, cancelling the permanent supply of water for inam dry lands from the close of fasli 1333;

(b) if so, the reason for the same; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Collector insists on every person irrigating or possessing landed interest in a certain land to obtain fresh permission in his name on pain of penalty in spite of the fact that the land was already given permanent supply and was included under a well-defined ayacut or a sluice in the channel?